

Remarks

Claims 1-16, 23-34, and 41-49 are pending.

In the Drawings

The drawings have been amended to address the Examiner's objections.

Double Patenting

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 23-29, and 41-49 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting (obviousness-type) as being unpatentable over claims 1, 6, and 10 of application number 10/219,460. Claim 11 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting (obviousness-type) as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 12 of application number 10/219,460. Claims 9, 14, and 32 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting (obviousness-type) as being unpatentable over claims 1, 7, and 13 of application number 10/219,460. Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 30, 31, and 34 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting (obviousness-type) as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 6 of application number 10/219,460 in view of Li et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,757,771. Claims 10, 15, and 33 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting (obviousness-type) as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 6 of application number 10/219,460 in view of Hluchyj et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,426,640.

In response, a terminal disclaimer pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.321(c) is filed herewith. Submission of this terminal disclaimer should not be construed as an admission of obviousness of any of the rejected claims over the cited references.

Allowable Subject Matter

In light of the terminal disclaimer, it is believed that claims 1-16, 23-34, and 41-49 are allowable.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on Nov 22, 2004.

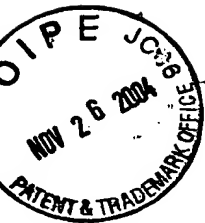

Attorney for Applicant(s)

11/22/04
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Marc R. Ascolese
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 42,268
512-439-5085
512-439-5099 (fax)



4/27

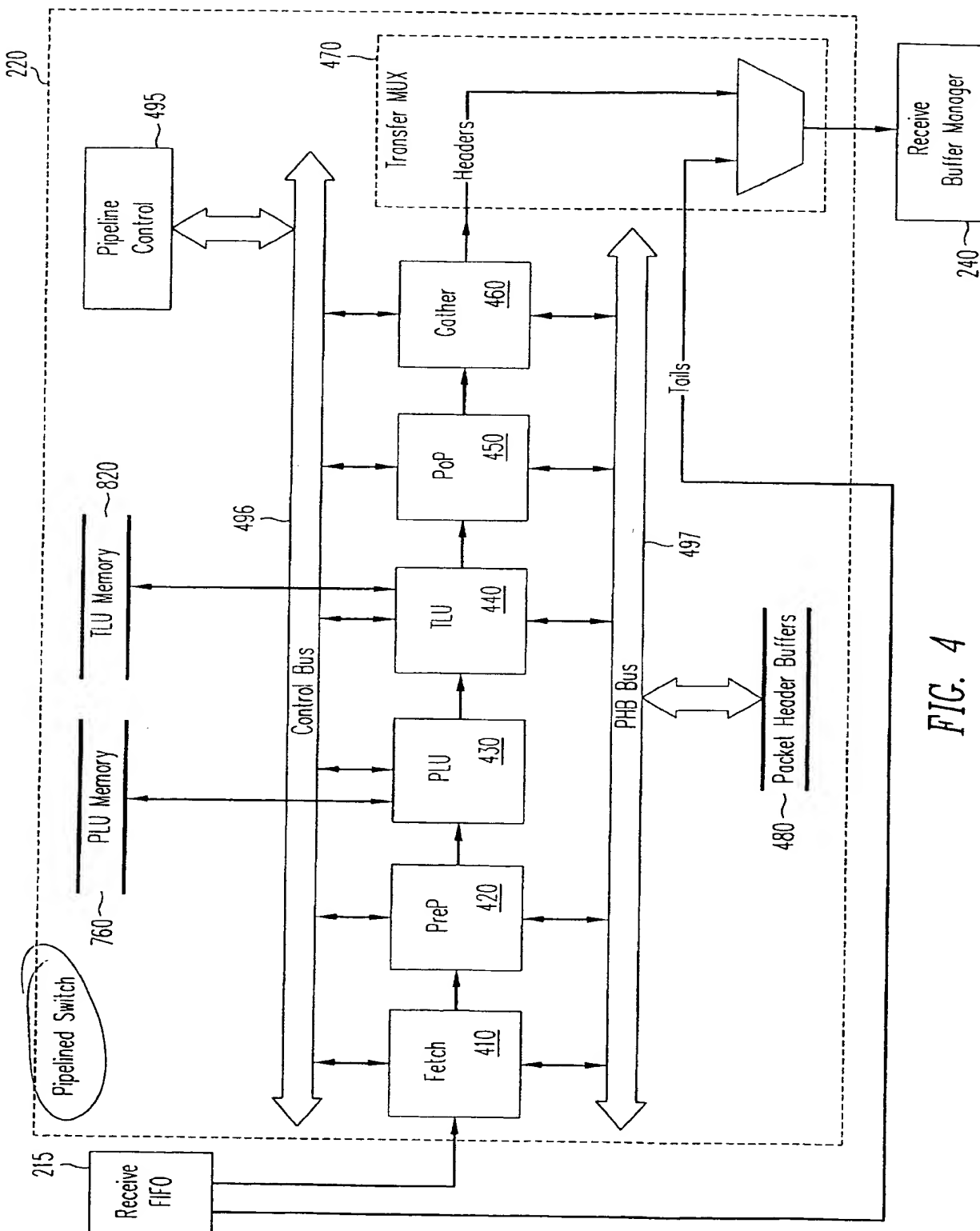


FIG. 4



12/27

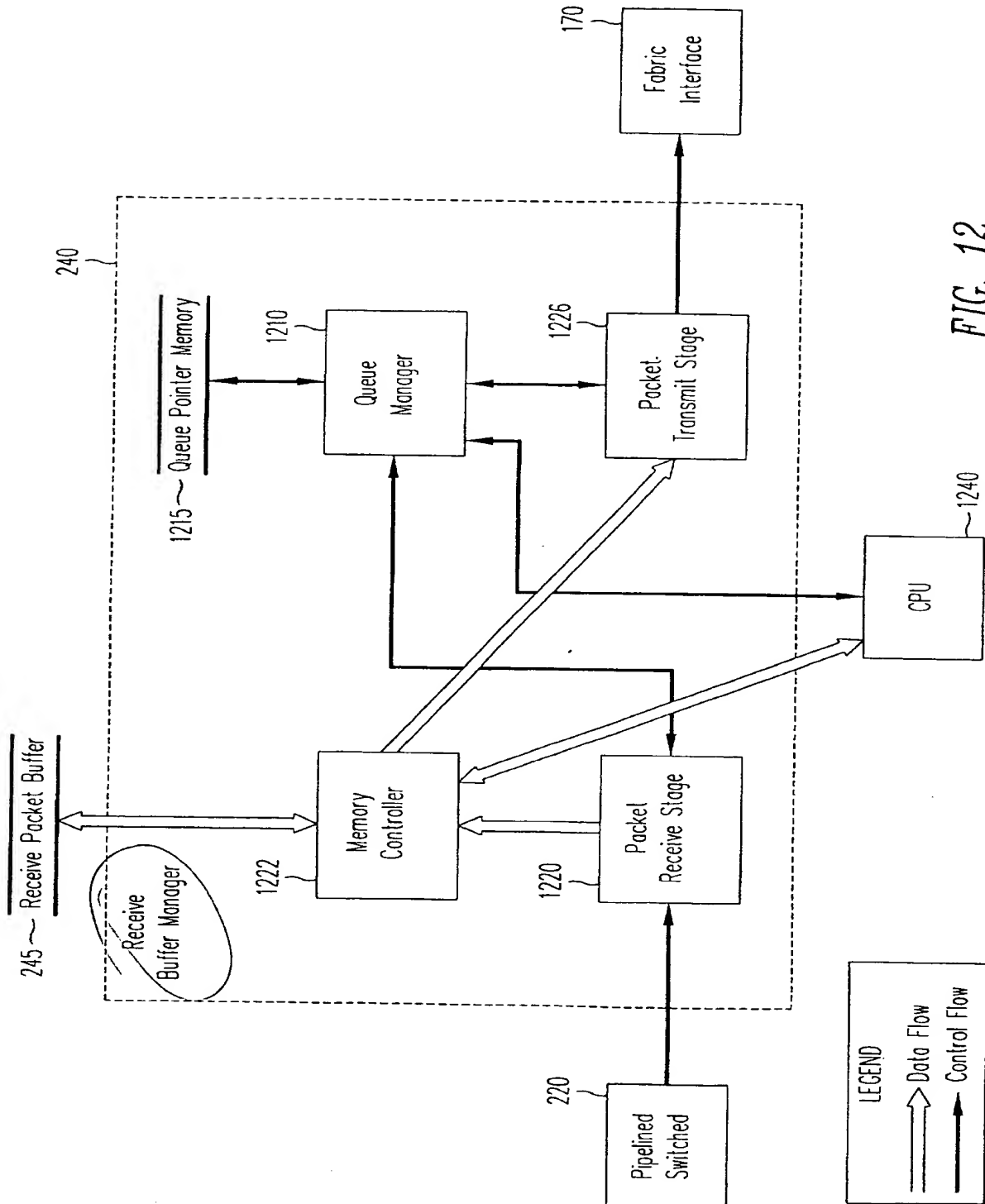


FIG. 12



13/27

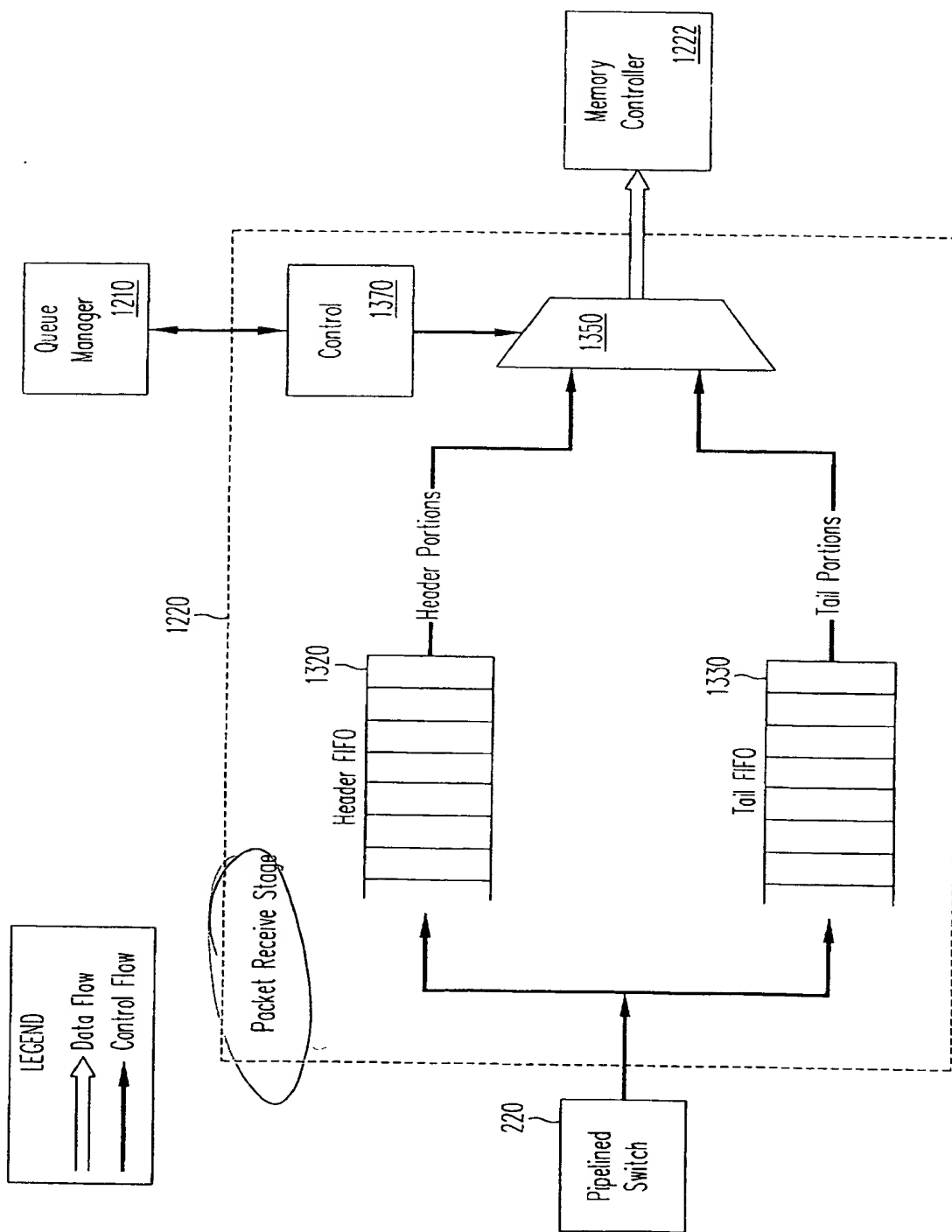


FIG. 13



14/27

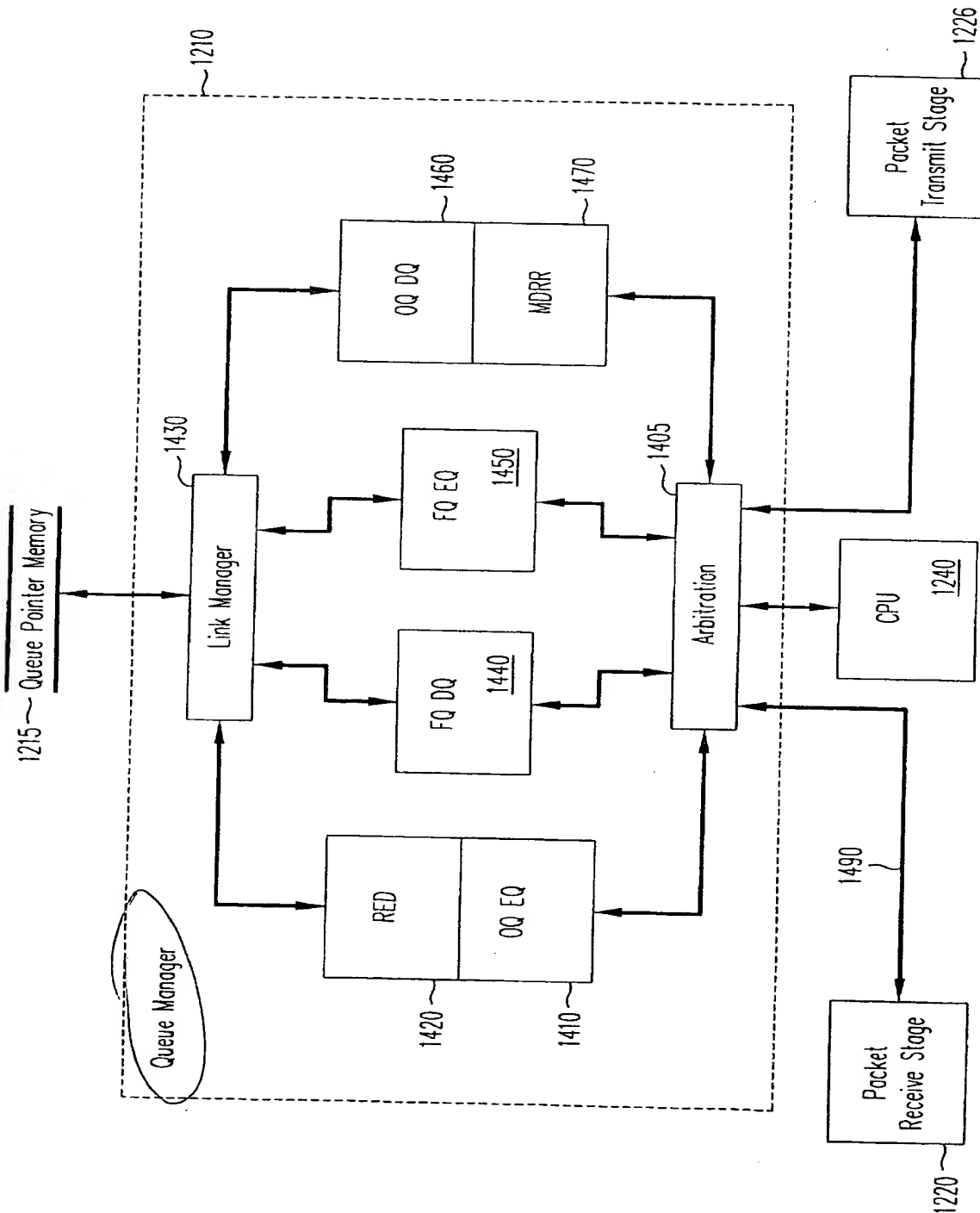


FIG. 14



15/27

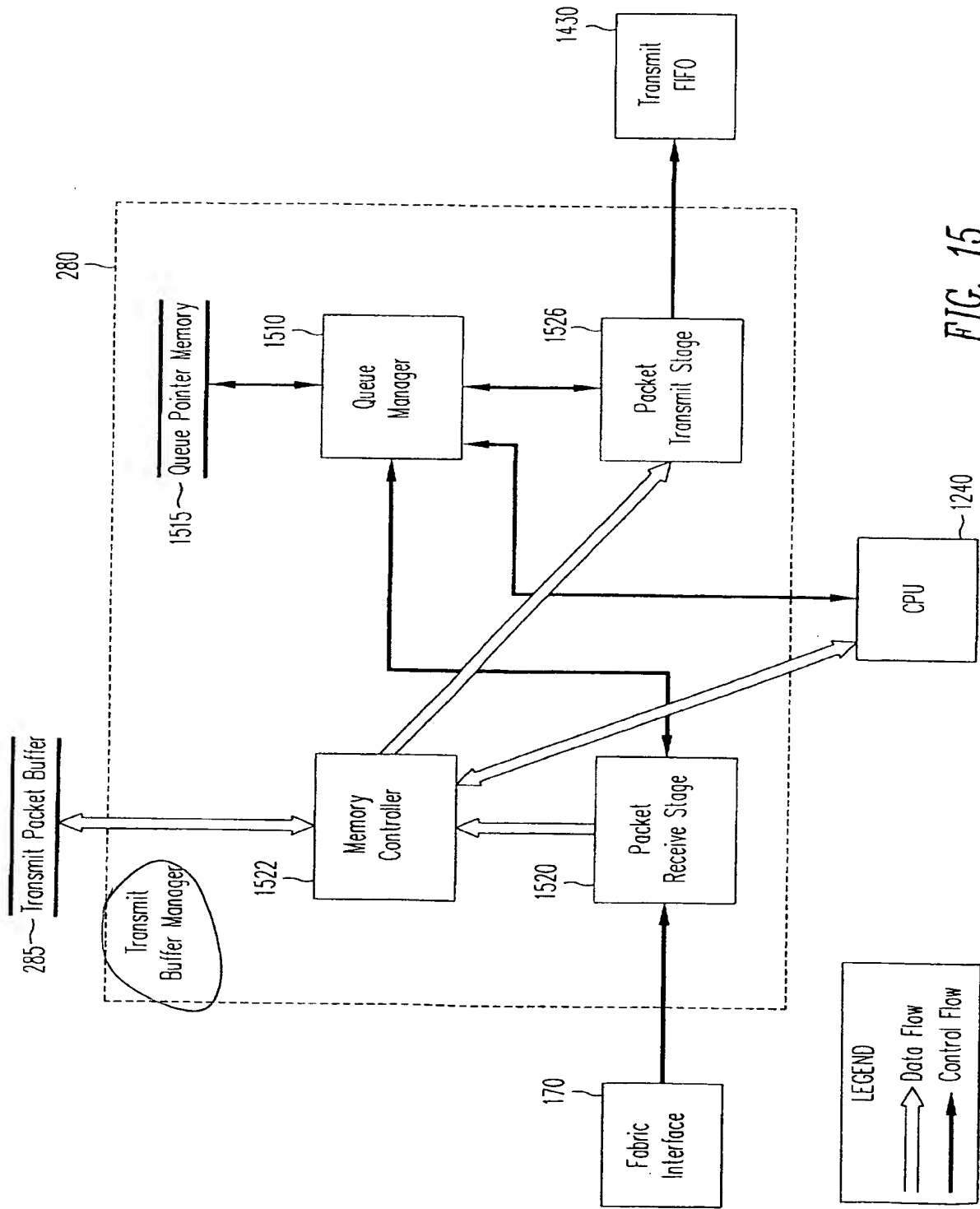


FIG. 15

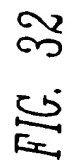


FIG. 32